

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1, 2 and 4-18 were pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11 and 16, while objecting to claims 7-10, 12-15, 17 and 18. By this Amendment, various claims have been amended and claims 6, 7, 12 and 17 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-11, 13-16 and 18 remain pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

### **The Objectionable Claims**

In item 2 on pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to claims 7-10, 12-15 and 17-18 for being dependant upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 1. In particular, amended claim 1 includes the features of prior claims 1, 6 and 7. Therefore, it is submitted that amended claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. In addition, it is submitted that claims 2, 4, 5 and 8-10 which depend from amended claim 1 should also be in condition for allowance.

Objectionable claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 11. Therefore, it is submitted that amended claim 11 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 13-15 depend from claim 11 and include all of the features of that claim. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 13-15 should also be in condition for allowance.

Objectionable claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 16. In particular, amended claim 16 includes the features of prior claims 11, 16 and 17. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 16 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 depends from claim 16 and should also be in condition for allowance.

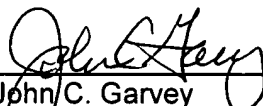
Summary

It is submitted that all claims have now been placed in allowable form based on the comments of the Examiner in item 2 on pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action. Further, since the applicants have only amended the claims in the manner suggested by the Examiner, it is submitted that this Amendment should be entered. Reconsideration of the claims and an early notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 2-14-05

By:   
John C. Garvey  
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501